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Attorney for Applicant(s)

Date of Signature

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) Paul A. Price and Julia S. Johansen

Assignee: The Regents of the University of California

Title: ASSAY FOR YKL-40 AS A MARKER FOR DEGRADATION OF MAMMALIAN CONNECTIVE TISSUE MATRICIES

Serial No.: 09/215,077

Filing Date: December 18, 1998

Examiner: Bao-Thuy Nguyen

Art Unit: 1641

Docket No.: M-8954-2US

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D. C. 20231

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated 3 February 2000, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks. A change in correspondence address and a petition for a three month extension of time is enclosed. For the convenience of the Examiner, a list of the pending claims is attached as Appendix I.

**In the Specification.**

After the abstract, please delete the sequence listing pages 1-6 and substitute therefore the enclosed sequence listing pages 1-4.

**In the Claims.**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Once amended) A method of ~~identifying the presence of~~ screening for a disease state associated with cirrhosis of the liver in a mammal, said method comprising measuring the level of YKL-40 in a biological sample of the mammal and comparing the level to that of a normal, healthy mammal, wherein a statistically significant difference indicates the presence of said ~~cirrhosis~~ disease state.

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diagnosis.  
differential for cirrhosis of liver